



SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

South Carolina Public Charter Schools

2010-2011 Profiles

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Academy for Teaching and Learning

Chester County School District

Mission

The mission of the Academy for Teaching and Learning is to establish a collaborative learning community in which individual children are known, respected, and accepted, and where every decision made is based on an intimate knowledge of what each child needs in order to become a successful citizen.

Description

The Academy for Teaching and Learning (ATL) is a kindergarten through eighth grade school that operates on a year round schedule and an extended school day. This unique schedule allows students to participate in a variety of appropriate experiences designed to accelerate the academic achievement of all students, promote behaviors and attitudes critical for success in school and life, and provide students with opportunities to participate in extracurricular academic and non-academic activities of interest to them. The ATL incorporates strategies such as classroom and school-level celebrations, routines and jobs that build relational trust and promote leadership and teamwork. Our students are expected to achieve academically and in relation to behavior, citizenship, and responsibility. Faculty and staff collaborate to implement classroom practices and instructional strategies that actively engage students in challenging, complex assignments that foster real world applications.

Origin

The Academy for Teaching and Learning opened in July of 2006. The school originated from the principal who continues to embed professional development that encourages school staff to talk about how students learn, and empowers them to effect change in achievement for students who are not succeeding or excelling.

Statistical Information: 2010-11

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-8	323	250	96.1%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	28	20	15.5	15	

Contact Information

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Aiken Performing Arts Academy

Aiken County School District

Mission

The APAA was created to provide 9th thru 12th grade high school students with unique learning opportunities in the performing and visual arts. Our academic curriculum is limited to college prep and advanced placement courses for qualifying students. Student enrollment is limited to ensure smaller class sizes. We believe the more intimate classroom environment; coupled with the opportunity to take specialized classes in dance, music, theatre and visual arts, makes our program unique. In recent years, our student population has consisted of students who have received little or no outside training, so we are exposing a new generation to the arts.

Description

APAA provides multi-sensory learning versus more traditional teaching methods, as the majority of our arts students respond positively to sensory catalysts. Apart from the performing and visual arts curriculum, the teaching staff places great emphasis on the pursuit of a post-secondary education. We expect our students to attend a college, university or arts institute upon graduation. This expectation is expressed in every facet of our educational program. Our guidance counselors provide personalized services for every student and parent by assisting them with individual graduation plans (IGP), college applications and scholarships. Yet, as we watch our students produce two major shows each year, there is no doubt they are learning other skills [public speaking, team work, stress management] that will translate positively into their daily lives. The APAA Curriculum is intended to provide each student with strong academic and artistic foundations necessary for success in post-secondary institutions or a career in the performing arts field.

Origin

The idea to create the Aiken Performing Arts (APA) Academy stemmed from an idea Keisha Lloyd-Kennedy, Director of the Lloyd Kennedy Charter School (LKCS), had to develop and showcase the raw talents of LKCS students. Since Aiken County does not have a performing arts school, this notion grew into an educational and artistic program committed to providing the best possible academic and performing arts climate for the maximum development of high school students.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9-12	60	0	96%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	4 Full-time 5 Part-time	4 Full-time 1 Part-time	15	2	1 Assist. Director/ Counselor

Contact Information

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Brashier Middle College Charter High School

Greenville County Schools

Mission

The mission of Brashier Middle College Charter High School is to foster a nurturing environment of 400 students within a culture of education, respect, and character. Students, parents, staff, and community are partners accountable for high expectations of greater levels of performance. Each student will be encouraged and challenged to complete coursework in order that they will be on their way to earning a college degree.

Description

Brashier Middle College is located on the Brashier campus of Greenville Technical College. As a small school, maximum of 400 students, students are provided more personal attention and support structures. As a Middle College, our students will qualify to enroll and complete dual credit courses through the college. This allows each student to create a more personalized academic plan based on interests and skills.

Origin

The first Middle College in Greenville County was Greenville Tech Charter High School. Many of the students attending this school were from the Simpsonville area, and the waiting list grew very large. As a result, a group of parents and educators from the area approached Greenville Technical College to suggest and plan a new charter high school in the area. Through hard work, Brashier Middle College was developed and opened in August 2006 at a downtown location. In August of 2007, the school relocated on the Brashier campus of Greenville Technical College and entered a permanent facility in August 2009.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9 - 12	399	384	97%	0
TEACHER	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	24	21	9	11	None

Contact Information

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Bridgewater Academy

Horry County Schools

Mission

The mission of Bridgewater Academy is to provide a structured curriculum that is academically challenging, and to instill in a diverse population of students the desire to learn and excel.

Description

Bridgewater Academy has been educating a diverse population of students and giving parents an alternative choice to the Public Schools of Horry County since 1988. With support and encouragement from parents, past and present, Bridgewater wrote the charter to open a public school in order to offer all students in our district accessibility. Bridgewater Academy has been operating as a Public Charter School since September 2003.

Bridgewater Academy, centrally located in Horry County, offers a high-content rigorous academic program. The school's commitment to excellence emphasizes personal responsibility for students and accountability by teachers. Governed by an elected board that consists of community members, parents, and educators, Bridgewater's focus is on the education of each individual child based on his or her specific needs. It is our goal to nurture our students and instill in them the desire to learn and have lifelong success. An afternoon tutoring program is built into our school day for students needing assistance.

In alignment with Horry County School District's goal for every student to achieve a measure of "met" or higher on the South Carolina state-wide assessment (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards), our students have made documented gains in the areas of English Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Math, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, Bridgewater Academy offers opportunity for academic growth by instituting the Gifted and Talented program, with plans for a similar program in Visual Arts.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K - 8	150	0	98 %	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	13 Full Time	11	15	3	

Contact Information

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Calhoun Falls Charter School

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

The mission of the Calhoun Falls Charter School is to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment whereby each child is actively engaged in an educational process that develops strong leadership qualities and creates opportunities for both the student and family to leave behind a living legacy for future generations.

Description

Calhoun Falls Charter School is a school of excellence that aims to produce academically and morally sound citizens of the 21st Century. Students at Calhoun Falls Charter School are engaged in rigorous units of study including various on-line course offerings and dual enrollment opportunities. The combined effort of the school, home, and community provides students with a quality educational experience.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	6-12	189	0	94.7%	1
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	20 Full Time 1 Part Time	14	15	3	1 teaching assistant

Contact Information

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Carolina School for Inquiry

Richland School District One

Mission

The mission of the Carolina School for Inquiry is to teach a diverse population of children in an atmosphere of kindness that encourages active inquiry, fosters individual growth and promotes respect for self, others and the world in which they live.

Description

Carolina School for Inquiry provides children with real life experiences that further their understanding of the basics of reading, mathematics, science, history, and writing while learning as scientists, authors, historians, and mathematicians do. Children are engaged in rigorous units of study that require an understanding of the concepts, content, skills, and strategies inherent in individual subjects, as well as the interrelationship among subjects.

In an effort to mirror real life experiences, subject areas are integrated. This takes place in individual study, small group and whole group inquiry projects, with strategy lessons that focus on skill development and direct instruction.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-6	114	23	99.5%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	7 Full Time	7 Full Time	14	6	2 Teaching assistants; Lead Teacher; Office Manager; Nutrition Manager

Contact Information

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Charleston Charter School for Math & Science

Charleston County School District

Mission

The Mission of the Charleston Charter School for Math (CCSMS) and Science is to educate students for success in college and careers by providing an innovative learning environment that is academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

Description

CCSMS's classrooms reflect innovative, creative work environments with students and teachers actively constructing knowledge and developing solutions. Instructional strategies develop students' critical thinking, time and project management, and communication & interpersonal skills. Global perspectives are explored throughout the math and science focused curriculum. Every student is required to study a foreign language. Middle school classes emphasize project-based learning. Students become active participants in their own education and are prepared for the school's academically challenging high school curriculum. Recognizing that college graduates earn 99% more than high school graduates in the South, CCSMS offers a rigorous curriculum that prepares all children for success in college and their careers.

High school students are challenged with extensive math and science related courses, including the Project Lead the Way Curriculum. The following Career Pathways are offered at CCSMA: Engineering, Business Entrepreneurship, Bio-Medical Sciences, Teaching Math and Science, and Math, Science, and Technology.

Origin

CCMS originated with a group of Charleston County parents and community leaders who envisioned a school that would offer a rigorous education in an innovative learning environment.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	6 – 12	365	150	95%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	26 Full Time 1 Part Time	23	5	13	2 guidance counselors

Contact Information

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Children's Attention Home

Rock Hill School District Three

Mission

To provide a safe and individualized educational experience that stimulates academic achievement and personal empowerment for abused, neglected or abandoned children.

Description

The Children's Attention Home Charter School enrolls students in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade who are living at the *Children's Attention Home* or at *Safe Passage*, a shelter for abused women and their children. We have one classroom for children in K-3, one classroom for 4-8 and a special education classroom for students identified as having special needs.

Origin

The professional staff and the Advisory Board of the *Children's Attention Home* had been looking at the idea of a charter school for several years as they observed over that time that children being served were having a difficult time adjusting to the regular public school setting due to the traumatic experiences most had been through prior to coming to the Home. A small charter school could provide a transition for these children and help prepare them for a successful return to public school.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K – 8	20	0	99%	17
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	2 Full Time 1 Part Time	2 Full Time 1 Part Time	3	1	1 Teacher Assistant

Contact Information

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CHOICES Charter School

Darlington County School District

Florence School District One

Mission

The mission of CHOICES Charter School is to provide an educational opportunity for students ages 12 to 17 in lieu of being expelled from school. CHOICES also provides student, teachers, and parents creative approaches basic educational skills and vocational exploration. Major emphasis is placed on conflict resolution and character training as the cornerstones of the curriculum.

Description

In its sixth year of operation, CHOICES provides a day-school for 45 students from Florence and Darlington County. These students are primarily expelled from the alternative schools or dropped out. The school is located on a rural site of 6.8 acres, which is on the county line of Florence and Darlington counties. Methodologies used provide a positive match for the learning styles of divergent learners. The environment supports risk-taking and promotes diversity of thinking by incorporating nontraditional activities that will encourage learning and student success.

Origins

A retired police chief from the city of Florence began talking about the need to get the youth off the streets. These youth were roaming the neighborhoods after being expelled from school. The local school officials, courts, and police agreed that there was no suitable location for these youth other than to eventually send them to the Department of Corrections for incarceration. After a feasibility study was conducted, it was determined that the communities of Florence and Darlington would support CHOICES as an Alternative. CHOICES opened in fall 2002.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	5-8 & Pre GED	45	NA	92%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	3 Full Time 1 Part Time	2 Full Time 1 Part Time	14 Full Time 6 Part Time		None

Contact Information

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Discovery School of Lancaster County

Lancaster County School District

Mission

In addition to supporting the mission of the Lancaster County School District, Discovery School of Lancaster County provides services to a diverse population of students in a unique learning environment with special emphasis on academic innovation and flexibility while encouraging students to excel in one or more areas of intelligence and promoting professional development opportunities for educators throughout the district.

Description

Discovery School was designed to serve students in grades K-5. Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, based on the belief that there is more than one form of cognition, provides the substructure for this unique learning environment. Students are provided with challenging activities that have traditionally been reserved only for students identified as academically gifted and talented. Through problem-based learning, students have the opportunity to apply knowledge in new and different ways as they work to develop solutions to real-world problems through research, reasoning, and critical thinking.

A key feature of Discovery School is its emphasis on professional growth. Teachers and administrators from across the district have the opportunity to take part in staff development available through the school.

Origin

Discovery School of Lancaster County is the result of the efforts of a thirty-six-member task force (composed of parents, teachers, administrators, business and community leaders, and representatives from local colleges and universities) who value student achievement, innovative teaching and learning practices, parental support, and the atmosphere that a small school setting provides. Discovery School opened in August 2000.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K – 5	108	48	97%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	7 Full Time 6 Part Time	7 Full Time 2 Part Time	7.5 Full Time 18 Part Time	6	None

Contact Information

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East Cooper Montessori Charter School

Charleston County School District

Mission

The mission of East Cooper Montessori Charter School (ECMCS) is to provide a rigorous Montessori education that guides children toward academic excellence, lifelong learning, and stewardship of the greater community.

Description

The Montessori approach encourages students to think, to do and to problem solve. The teacher presents the curriculum to best address each student's learning style. The teacher supports students needing to spend additional time in certain curriculum areas while allowing students to excel in areas of interest. Grades are blended in three-year increments: 1st-3rd, 4th-6th and 7th & 8th. Mixed grade learning supports older students as they mentor younger pupils; younger children reach for new knowledge and model older children. Working with the same students for multiple years, teachers develop an intimate understanding of each student's potential.

The school's rigorous academic program is characterized by individualization and high standards for each student. Learning may occur in such ways as study seminars, cooperative learning groups, creative writing or storytelling, or skits. In addition to academic excellence, goals for each student include experience in community service and personal development for the years beyond the school experience. Parental involvement at home and through volunteerism is strongly encouraged, and communication between school and family is essential.

ECMCS has been the recipient of the Palmetto Gold and Silver awards for achievement and has met Adequate Yearly Progress goals each year since the inception of charter status. Other recognitions include 2011 Charter School Administrator of the Year and Founding Member of the Montessori United Nations Program.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	1-8	200	100	96.7%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	10	10	10	7	7 part-time 4 fulltime

Contact Information

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Fox Creek High School

Edgefield County School District

Mission

Our mission at Fox Creek High School is to graduate students who will have a positive impact on the community, state and the nation. Our goal is to create an interconnected learning environment that combines a demanding college-preparatory education with the many resources of the Central Savannah River Area. This environment includes the government, performing arts, industry, the medical community, and sports. We accomplish our goal by establishing academic excellence, providing a moral focus, and obtaining parental involvement.

Description

Fox Creek High School enrolls students in grades 9 through 12. Most students live in southern Edgefield County. We provide a comprehensive education specializing in strong academic classes. Fox Creek offers English 101 and 102, Math 110 and 111, and History 101 and 102 through Piedmont Technical College. We also offer the Teacher Cadet program through the University of South Carolina-Aiken for 3 hours of college credit. Students are capable of earning 21 hours of college credit before graduating from Fox Creek High School.

Origin

Community leaders in the Merriwether Community of southern Edgefield County have longed for a community high school for decades. These leaders were impressed with the charter school movement and felt that it would give their community a unique opportunity to bring an academically focused high school to their family oriented community.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9-12	335	0	93.6%	20
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	20	19	9	12	NA

Contact Information

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Greenville Technical Charter High School

Greenville County School District

Mission

Greenville Technical Charter High School provides equitable opportunities for all students to acquire an education focused on linkages among rigorous academics, technology, and careers to produce graduates who are prepared for success in the global workforce of the 21st century. GTCHS aspires to create an equitable community of learners in which mutual respect, trust, integrity, and the pursuit of ideas are valued and appreciated.

Description

Greenville Technical Charter High School (GTCHS) is an Early College High School working to create a seamless transition to higher education. The school is located on the main campus of Greenville Technical College and offers a teaching/learning paradigm based both on Mastery and Project Based Learning. All students have the opportunity to take college and high school dual credit classes, and many graduate from high school classified as sophomore college students. Several students have completed requirements for an Associate Degree while still enrolled in high school. GTCHS is a member of the Middle College National Consortium and receives support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide opportunities for underperforming, underrepresented and first generation college students.

Origin

Upstate business and industry, based on continuous employment needs, encouraged Greenville Technical College to design and develop a comprehensive technical high school uniquely positioned with career and academic focus to train a highly skilled workforce with problem solving and critical thinking skills. Greenville Technical Charter High School opened in August 1999. The school received recognition as a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School from the U.S. Department of Education and designated as a national Top 15 charter school, 2009 Carolina First Palmetto's Finest Award, 2007 Center for Education Reform National Charter School of the Year and a Bronze Award for America's Best High Schools from *US Report & World News Report*.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9 – 12	420	317	97%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	24 Full Time 1 Part Time	23 Full Time 1 Part Time	17	24	2 Deans 1 CDF

Contact Information

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Greer Middle College

Greenville County School District

Mission

Greer Middle College Charter High School (GMCCHS) provides a rigorous and relevant academic program to ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and personal skills to be successful in the global community of the 21st century.

Description

GMCCHS opened its doors in 2008 at the West End Community Development Center in downtown Greenville with 89 students. The school moved to the Greer campus of Greenville Technical College in the fall of 2009 and will grow to full capacity of grades 9-12 for the 2011/2012 school year. This Early College high school provides a rigorous academic foundation, as well as the technical and technology training necessary for employment and advancement in a contemporary economy. The project-based curriculum is modeled after prevailing practices in the workplace. Each student has an individualized academic roadmap to guide them through four years of high school. This process is accentuated by providing career and academic advisement with close association to adult mentors from the business community, as well as the college faculty and staff. Students are required to participate in community service that culminates in a senior project and exhibition of learning for graduation. As high school students, most will have the opportunity to enroll in transferable college credit.

Origin

Upstate business and industry, based on continuous employment needs, encouraged Greenville Technical College to design and develop a comprehensive technical high school uniquely positioned with career and academic focus to train a highly skilled workforce with problem solving and critical thinking skills. Greer Middle College Charter High School opened in August 2008.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9 -10-11	281	NA	96.3%	1
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	18 Full Time 1 Part Time	17 Full Time 1 Part Time	11.39	13	1 Guidance Counselor

Contact Information

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Greg Mathis Charter High School

Charleston County School District

Mission

The Mission of Greg Mathis Charter High School (GMCHS) is to provide a second chance for students that are performing at or below grade level and implement researched proven instructional strategies that will enable them to successfully complete requirements for a high school diploma, a higher level of education and/or work skills in order to become positive, contributing members of society.

Description

The school currently serves 9th through 12th graders between the ages of 15 through 20 years of age. The goal of the school is to help young men and women gain the educational skills necessary to obtain their high school diploma and begin a meaningful career. The school is designed to give students a "fresh start "in a small, nurturing environment."

Origin

Greg Mathis Charter High School (formerly *YouthBuild* Charleston Charter School) was conceived in 1998 as a branch of *YouthBuild U.S.A.* The school was structured as a GED program with a construction trades component. In 2003, *YouthBuild* applied for and received from the Charleston County School District a charter becoming the *YouthBuild* Charleston Charter School. Offering a comprehensive high school curriculum, students were eligible between the ages of 15 - 21 of years of age. In 2006, the process of restructuring began. New members (management, staff and board members) were brought in to establish a new vision and curriculum. As a result, the construction component was discontinued. In January 2009, GMCHS absorbed 55 students from Sea Island *YouthBuild*, due to their closure. GMCHS expanded with the intent to move forward with both a comprehensive high school and a *YouthBuild* component for students on a vocational track. Transitional procedures began with relocating resources to a centralized location within the district. The school relocated to 2872 Azalea Drive, North Charleston, SC 29405.

GMCHS looks forward to the challenges of tomorrow, and the reward found in students' achievement. It is the belief at GMCHS that every child will be successful! **“EXPECT SUCCESS” is our Motto!**

Statistical Information: 2010 - 2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9 - 12	92	0	78%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Non-Instructional Staff (other)
	7	5	12	7	5

Contact Information

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James Island Charter High School

Charleston County School District

Mission

The mission of James Island Charter High School is to develop confident, responsible, life-long learners who can excel in society by creating a diverse curriculum and extracurricular experiences in a safe, nurturing environment supported by faculty, parents and community.

Description

James Island Charter High School is a converted community-concentric public high school, providing education and facilities for the community, operating as a nonprofit corporation, and organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina. Parents, teachers, and local community leaders govern it. The school primarily serves Charleston County School District 3, a community comprised of the area of James Island and Folly Beach. The school offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program and Pre-IB Program to students countywide.

Origin

The James Island community has a history of supporting its schools. The movement to convert the existing James Island High School to a charter school was the result of the desire of a group of parents, teachers, and community leaders to become involved in the governance and management of the school. On August 28, 2002, 86% of the faculty and instructional staff voted to support the charter application. On October 14, 2002, ballots were mailed to parents of each student enrolled in the school, and 76% of the parents voted in favor of supporting the charter. James Island High School officially became James Island Charter High School on July 1, 2003.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9 - 12	1339	0	96 %	363
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	100 Full Time 4 Part Time	100 Full Time 4 Part Time	10	76	8

Contact Information

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Lake City College Preparatory Academy

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

Lake City College Prep Academy (LCCPA) is committed to creating a high quality college preparatory instructional environment where a strong commitment to the creative arts is manifested which will lead to high levels of academic achievement. At LCCPA the inclusion of an exemplary creative arts-based curriculum is utilized to maximize parental, community and student involvement as we seek to address the needs of the whole child by providing high quality intellectual, social and emotional development.

Description

CCPA is a world class school of the arts that uses an arts-based approach to learning. Each student attending LCCPA receives instruction in a variety of fine and performing arts including, music, band, chorus, visual arts, drama, and dance. Additionally students display their artistic achievement by participating in at least two of four high level performing arts showcases that are displayed for the entire school-wide community including parents and the community.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-10	225	50	98.5%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	14	12	11	12	11 instructional staff 1 other

Contact Information

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Langston Charter Middle School

Greenville County School District

Mission

The mission of the Langston Charter Middle School is to enrich and empower sixth, seventh, and eighth graders with personal responsibility and compassion for their community through single-gender classes, innovative teacher, parent and community cooperative learning. The school expects active parental involvement in their child's academic, emotional and social development.

Description

Located on Greenville's growing east side, Langston offers students a rigorous academic curriculum, daily Spanish instruction, and leadership training. Classes are small and students learn in a single-gender environment. Teachers study and implement techniques for teaching to the strengths of boys and girls. Initial longitudinal data collected at the school shows statistically significant growth for both groups, especially in math. To meet the requirement of 10-15 hours of service learning per quarter, students volunteer with community agencies like Hands On Greenville, Meals on Wheels, Special Olympics, Goodwill, and the Humane Society. This spring, we held our first community-wide day of service. 384 students, along with teachers and parents, spread out across the Upstate to volunteer in a wide range of activities – from cleaning bike and walking trails to stocking a local food pantry. By studying leaders from the past and present, participating in the YMCA-sponsored Youth in Government program, and taking an active role in the life of their community, students will acquire a better understanding of their world and the impact they can make.

Origin

In January of 2004 a group of parents met to discuss the possibility of starting a middle school. The motivation came from a shared belief that many of the typical middle school problems could be minimized by making some fundamental changes in the way the day is structured. To that end, we chose to reduce distractions and refocus the emphasis onto core academics with small, single-gender classes, leadership training, required community service, and required school uniforms. Langston opened on August 22, 2005 with 111 students and a waiting list for several classes. In our second year, we opened with full enrollment of 120 students and a waiting list. We moved to a larger campus in August 2007 and opened with 210 students. With the addition of 4 portable classrooms in August 2008, our student body grew to 285 and to 311 students by the 2009-2010 academic year. In the summer of 2010, the school moved again – to a larger and much newer facility. This move allowed enrollment of 384 students for the 2010-2011 school year.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	6-8	384	112	98 %	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	19	16	11.68	15	1 Parent Resource Coordinator

Contact Information

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Lead Academy

Greenville County School District

Mission

The mission of Lead Academy is to prepare all students, particularly those who have not succeeded in traditional school environments, for lifelong success through a structured, caring environment of high academic expectations. Our focus is to educate servant leaders through a commitment to develop each student in seven key areas: leadership, scholarship, character, teamwork, creativity, community engagement and identity.

Description

Lead Academy is a public charter school, operated as a nonprofit organization, and governed by a board of directors comprised of parents and community members. The school is open to anyone residing in the Greenville County School District attendance area and draws students from all areas of the county. The instructional framework of Lead Academy does not single out a particular instructional strategy, but rather allows for more creativity in instruction by lengthening students' time in school. We encourage the use of a variety of productive teaching methods, provided that the teaching is student-centered, differentiated and relevant. Other elements of our educational program include an extended school day include: regular advisory sessions in the morning that assist students with short- and long-range planning, character development and organization, individual tutoring sessions for students in need of remediation, school uniforms that reflect our commitment to leadership, scholarship, and teamwork, and a focus on college preparation and the expectation to attend college and graduate.

History

The vision for Lead Academy began with Operation GO, the outreach ministry of Redemption World Outreach Center. Eleven years ago, Operation GO was formed as an initiative of RWOC, one of Lead's major community partners. Efforts included Saturday programs for children and teens, neighborhood family visitation, emergency assistance and city-wide special events. From the beginning, Operation GO has maintained a special focus on reaching youth. Throughout the years, staff members and volunteers began to take notice of the many school-aged participants who exhibited poor academic performance or were not performing at their full potential. In 2007, a committee of concerned members began to explore educational alternatives that would best serve the students within the organization's reach. After considering many options, the committee settled on the idea of petitioning the Greenville County School District for a public charter school to serve students in grades 5 through 8. In May 2009, a charter school application was submitted. With much excitement, in June 2009, the Planning Committee celebrated the approval of the Lead Academy Public Charter School. As a public charter school, there are no fees or admissions requirements to attend Lead.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	5 – 6	77	NA	97 %	NA
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	5 Full Time 1 Part Time	5 Full Time	4.6 Full Time 4 Part Time	3	NA

Contact Information

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Legacy Charter School

Greenville County School District

Mission

The mission of Legacy Charter School is to offer a quality, rigorous, and relevant educational program leading to college graduation and empowering underserved urban students to become productive, healthy, principled citizens in a changing society.

Description

Legacy Charter School (LCS) provides a choice of a small learning community for underserved academically and culturally diverse students in grades K-12. In a school climate where caring and support, as well as high expectations are evident, students find this neighborhood school to be a place where there is a focus on learning, health and wellness. Partnering with Furman University and local hospitals, LCS highlights the mind-body connection with daily physical activity and good nutrition. Healthy students will perform better academically as they concentrate on the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and communicating with clarity.

Legacy Charter School's grades 9 – 12 (Parker Campus) will be part of the Early/Middle College program. Early college high schools are designed to increase high school graduation rates, as well as the number of underserved youth who achieve a post-secondary education. Partnering with Greenville Technical College, LCS (Parker) will utilize best practices that have developed around the middle college concept to meet the needs of students who want more than the typical high school experience. Unique features include a head start on career goals by earning college course credits through dual enrollment which allows some courses to count for both high school and college credit, and a small school environment enabling personalized and individualized learning.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-9	486	NA	98 %	NA
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	43 Full-time 2 Part-time	41	8.3	18	1 Instructional Coach 1 Counselor

Contact Information

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Lloyd Kennedy Charter School

Aiken County School District

Mission

The Lloyd Kennedy Charter Schools (LKCS) was created to educate students who are academically, personally and/or socially at-risk. LKCS is attractive to parents and students searching for a small, nurturing, academic environment for grades 3-8. Student enrollment is limited to ensure a smaller class size and a maximum teacher-student ratio of 1:18 for all academic classes. Because we believe each child learns in a unique way, the LKCS recognizes individual learning by incorporating visual, auditory, and psychomotor components in our daily lesson plans. Although our population spans from the academically gifted and talented to those with special needs, the majority of our students come to us from the traditional area schools performing below grade level. However, parent and student goals remain the same. Everyone who enters our doors wants their children to succeed academically.

Description

Due to the nature of our mission, the primary goals for all students are to focus on student achievement, improve student test scores, increase opportunities for student success and maintain a nurturing school culture. These goals are packaged into our *World Class* initiative which promotes a new outlook, new teaching standards and a positive learning environment. We understand change does not happen overnight, but with steady persistent progress. In order to be successful in the classroom, we provide a daily example of what being positive “looks” like. Our benchmark for measuring the fulfillment of academic standards is evaluating each quarter on how well your students perform on standardized norm-based testing. Teacher job security is based, in part, on how well the students perform or improve on testing. All benchmark tests are controlled documents created to mirror the format of standardized tests. Student achievements are recognized quarterly and annually, as we believe there is always something to celebrate about a child. Our overall school environment is nurturing and our staff is trained to be compassionate to the needs of each student.

Origin

The origin of the LKCS stemmed from parents and educators who were frustrated with the “cookie-cutter” learning environments that ignored the diversity of students and the way those students learn. LKCS opened in August 2002.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	3 – 8	65	0	98%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	4 Full Time 1 Part Time	4 Full Time 1 Part Time	25		1 Assist. Director/Counselor

Contact Information

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Meyer Center for Special Children

Greenville County School District

Mission

The Meyer Center for Special Children provides quality education and therapy services to preschool children with disabilities.

Description

The Meyer Center for Special Children is Upstate South Carolina's only integrative education-therapy setting. As a Greenville County Charter School, United Way Social Service Agency, and DHEC Rehab Facility, the Center has many unique opportunities to utilize combined federal, state, and community resources. An interdisciplinary team provides a comprehensive range of intensive developmental and family services, which promote growth in all developmental areas. These services are listed below:

- Certified Teachers provide individual and group learning experiences based on a child's developmental age and specific needs.
- Speech-Language Pathologists work to improve a child's communication. Interventions include language stimulation, oral motor therapy, and use of assistive technology.
- Occupational Therapists work with a child to improve his/her fine motor skills and ability to explore and adjust to his/her environment
- Physical therapists work with a child to improve his/her gross motor skills in order to maximize quality of movement for functional activities.
- Social Workers provide support for families and assist in coordination of services.

Origin

Dr. Leslie C. Meyer founded the Meyer Center in 1954. The Center began operation as a South Carolina Charter School in August 1999.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	Pre K – 2	50	1	90.9%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other
	11	11	12	8	14Teacher Assistants
					5 – OT 5 – PT
					1 Music Therapist
					1 Social Worker

Contact Information

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Midlands Math and Business Academy

Richland School District One

Mission

Midlands Math and Business Academy provides students the opportunity to experience learning through innovative, as well as traditional approaches. The business component and the challenging Core Knowledge curriculum provide students the chance to make discoveries using a hand-on approach with real-world applications.

Description

As the name implies, Math and Business will be the focus of MMBA. Students can expect at MMBA to see math as a beneficial life-skill. Students are offered both face-to-face math classes and virtual math classes, based upon their readiness skills.

One of the math series recommended in the school's Core Knowledge curriculum is Saxon Math. In this math program, students are introduced to new concepts almost daily; however the previously covered concepts are presented repeatedly so that students do not forget them.

The inclusion of the personal finance component is a strong fiber in the culture of MMBA. It develops personal banking, personal finance, effective communication, entrepreneurship, and other business aspects such as resumes writing, attire, etc.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	4-8	90		97 %	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	10	9	15	6 Full-time 1 Part-time	1 Lab Manager 2 Interventionist

Contact Information

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Midland Valley Preparatory School

Aiken County School District

Mission

Midland Valley Preparatory School provides services to a diverse population of students in a unique learning environment with special emphasis on academic innovation and flexibility while encouraging students to excel in one or more areas of intelligence and promoting behaviors that complement our society.

Description

Midland Valley Preparatory School functions on a modified calendar year program with extended care available for students. Governed by a board that consists of educators and parents, the focus is on the education of each individual child based on his or her specific needs. By incorporating the Core Knowledge curriculum along with the South Carolina performance standards, the school strives to educate students to understand the importance of diversity and the pure enjoyment of learning. The ultimate goal of the school is to challenge each student and to keep each student focused so that all students will achieve academic success.

Origin

Midland Valley Preparatory School opened in August of 2002.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	5K-8	160	20	96.3 %	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	12	11	9	2	1

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MLD Learning Academy

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

Working in partnership with parents, teachers and elders of the community, the MLD Higher Learning Academy offers an academically challenging, developmentally appropriate, experiential, holistic, child-centered education to all young people. We nurture a passion for learning that will last a lifetime as we challenge our children to discover their individual gifts, to honor their inner worth, to strive for excellence, to pursue respectful and ethical relationships with themselves and others, and to find their path in life. We will accomplish our goal by establishing academic excellence, providing a moral focus and obtaining parental involvement.

Description

MLD Higher Learning Academy is a community based charter school that is dedicated to changing the lives of children. MLD Higher Learning Academy serves K5 through 8th grade this school term. Because MLD Higher Learning Academy is a community-based school, its programs are tailored directly to the express needs of the community. MLD aims to bring education that is “holistic” and “experiential”. MLD focuses on bringing activities that keep children focused on their studies and engaged in their work. With MLD, the child gets an education that is “innovative” and “progressive.” Children deserve a free 21st century education. MLD Higher Learning Academy will provide just that: a quality education that will enable students to be highly competitive, successful members of a global society.

Origin

The origin of the MLD stemmed from parents and educators who were frustrated with the “cookie-cutter” learning environments that ignored the diversity of students and the way those students learn. The Lee County Community is dedicated to educating our children and wanting them to excel in life. Parents, community members, and teachers want our children to be able to compete in a global and growing society.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K5-12	130	0	98%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	10 Full Time 2 Part Time	10 Full Time 8 Part Time	20 Full Time 32 Part Time	1 Full Time 3 Part Time	2 Teacher Assistants; 2 Certified Consultants

Contact Information

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Orange Grove Elementary Charter School

Charleston County School District

Mission

The mission of Orange Grove Elementary Charter School (OGECS) is to develop students with the intellectual power to become confident, caring, and responsible lifelong learners by providing an innovative, supportive learning environment that emphasizes creative and critical thinking skills while respecting individual differences.

Description

Founded in 1963, it serves 750 children from Child Development (4 years) to fifth grade. A reputation for excellence characterizes Orange Grove. It has proven its commitment to the highest standards in education by providing a well-rounded, quality instructional program for all children. Orange Grove has been recognized for its excellence both on a state and national level. It has received several prestigious awards, which include the National Blue Ribbon Award for Exemplary Schools from the U.S. Department of Education; the SC Palmetto's Finest Award; Exemplary Writing School; Palmetto Gold and Silver; and the Environmental School of the Year. Incentive Reward funds totaling over \$265,083 were received from the SC Department of Education for outstanding test scores over a period of twelve years. The South Carolina Education Oversight Committee has recognized us for closing the Achievement Gap for historically underachieving students in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2010.

Orange Grove's curriculum overflows with innovative, motivational techniques for instructing children of all different ability levels. Effective instructional programs such as Daily Oral Language and Accelerated Reader enhance our curriculum, along with an emphasis on writing, hands-on math and science activities, and literature. The world of technology comes alive for our students with two networked computer labs, SMART Boards, and PC's in all the classrooms. Strong parental support and active involvement have been key ingredients in the success of Orange Grove Elementary Charter School. Our PTO has had 100% membership for the past 41 years. Twenty business education partners also support our school with their time and resources.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	CD- 5	750	0	97.6 %	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	62 Full Time 9 Part Time	62 Full Time 9 Part Time	19	53	15 Teacher Assistants

Contact Information

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Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success

Horry County School District

Mission

Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success's mission is to create a small, diverse learning environment that accommodates each student's individual differences, learning styles, and development while promoting high expectations for all students. By providing meaningful and innovative learning experiences, instruction for multiple learning styles, access to technology, and encouraging family and community involvement, Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success is committed to guiding students in the development of both their character and academic potential in preparation for their success as lifelong learners.

Description

Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success is a small, diverse learning environment that attracts families seeking academically rigorous curriculum and whole-child development. In keeping with our mission of a small and personalized environment and low student/teacher ratios, Palmetto Academy has no more than two classes per grade with a student to teacher distribution of no more than eighteen to one. Our program significantly differs from the typical public school education in that our mission is to create a small, diverse learning environment that accommodates the individual differences, learning styles, and current developmental level of each student. We seek to build a family atmosphere where each student is known by name and every family has a place within the school. We strive to know the strengths and weaknesses of each individual student and provide a tailored educational program utilizing their strengths to overcome their areas of deficit. Our educational program has many facets that are innovative in nature and differ significantly from most current educational opportunities in our immediate area.

Origin

Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success was created by a diligent group of educators, administrators, parents, and community members who saw the need for more options in a large county. The group began planning several years ago and, as word spread, the community support grew. PALS was unanimously approved in July 2009 by the Horry County School Board and opened its doors in August 2010.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-8	145	30	90%	< 1%
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	11	11	8	4	N/A

Contact Information

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Palmetto Scholars Academy

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

Palmetto Scholars Academy (PSA) provides a differentiated program designed to meet the educational needs of intellectually gifted learners, address their distinctive social and emotional needs, promote individual character development and instill a life-long love of learning. Our students engage with leading innovative organizations in higher education, business and science, to empower them to make original and impactful contributions toward the elevation of South Carolina in the areas of education, commerce, arts, and science.”

Description

Palmetto Scholars Academy is a start-up public charter middle/high school providing education and facilities for the community operating as a nonprofit corporation and organized under the laws of the State of South Carolina. Parents, teachers, and local community leaders govern it. The school primarily serves the Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties but is open to students statewide. The school offers a Gifted and Talented Program.

Origin

The genesis of a charter school serving gifted and talented students began with the parents who desired an innovative and diverse learning environment as an alternative to the modest offerings of underachieving public schools. With only two schools in the tri-county area currently dedicated gifted learners, this underserved population called for the establishment of a school providing challenging curriculum based on best practices in gifted education. Educators of gifted learners joined the momentum and came forward to volunteer their time for the development of curricula for the charter application

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	6-8	189	0	182	Statewide
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	11 Full Time 3 Part Time	11	8	10	1

Contact Information

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Palmetto State E-cademy

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

The mission of Palmetto State E-cademy is to provide South Carolina youth an opportunity to realize their potential in a superior online learning environment.

Description

Palmetto State E-cademy students come from a broad array of backgrounds. Their greatest asset is that they are motivated and want to finish school. From advanced students to those who are struggling and need more personalized attention, PSE can provide South Carolina's high school students with a flexible and customized educational opportunity.

Palmetto State E-cademy students choose from one of four academic tracks making the educational experience more customized. Instructors work with students on a personalized, year-long learning program. Target deadlines are set within each course to help students budget their time and stay on task. Over the course of a school year, a typical student may take three to four courses per block or up to six courses over the year. Palmetto State E-cademy offers over 100 courses for our students including all core academic areas of math, language arts, science and social studies, as well as electives in areas such as world languages, business and marketing, digital technologies, fine/visual/performing arts, life/study skills, and physical education.

Origin

Insight School of South Carolina was approved in April, 2008 to function as a state-wide Charter School within the South Carolina Public Charter School District. The school opened for the first time on September 2, 2008. In June of 2009, the school's name was changed to Palmetto State E-cademy.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9 – 12	475	0	92%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	15 Full Time 5 Part Time	20	12	16	1 guidance counselor

Contact Information

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Palmetto Youth Academy

Florence School District One

Mission

The mission of Palmetto Youth Academy is to provide an opportunity for all students, regardless of income, or ability, to reach their full academic, social, and behavioral potential through an individualized, innovative, educational program that embraces diversity and is governed by parents and educators.

Description

Palmetto Youth Academy (PYA) operates on a year-round schedule from 7:30am to 5:30pm with a free academic-based after school program and 185 instructional days. PYA uses several different instructional strategies and curricula to meet the individual learning styles and abilities of students. One of the most effective instructional methods used is “ability grouping”. This method allows students to be grouped with peers performing on or near the same academic level in reading and math versus actual grade level placements. In addition, PYA offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including Praise Dance, Choir, Drum-Line, Girl Scouts and Art Club. All of these activities have proven to improve social skills and promote community involvement while developing individual talents and strengths. Students are required to wear uniforms and parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer a minimum of 20 hours per school year.

Origin

Palmetto Youth Academy originated from the long-term passion and persistence of several parents, educators and community members who, not only recognized the need for a more individualized program, but also, developed and implemented a plan to effectively meet these diverse needs. This planning committee was established in 2003, the charter application was approved in 2004 and Palmetto Youth Academy opened August, 2005.

Statistical Information: 2010 - 2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	3-6	60	5	98 %	11
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	1 Full Time 2 Part Time	1 Full Time 2 Part Time	16 Full Time 23 Part Time	2	4 Paraprofessionals

Contact Information

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PACE Charter School

Charleston County School District

Mission

PACE Charter School improves the quality of life for children with multiple disabilities by providing a comprehensive educational program that integrates educational curricula with functional rehabilitation instruction to maximize the potential and well-being of the child, and to ensure family inclusion.

Description

Pattison's Academy for Comprehensive Education (PACE) Charter School was born out of the desire of families, professionals, and community members for children with multiple and severe disabilities to have quality educational choices. Children with multiple and severe disabilities arguably have the most limited options of anyone in terms of school choice. PACE will provide school choice to those who have none. The purpose of PACE is to provide students with multiple and severe disabilities a comprehensive educational and rehabilitative program in a charter school environment.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-12	31	4	85%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	4	4	5	3	6

Contact Information

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Phoenix Charter High School

Clarendon School District Two

Mission

By personalizing education in a small, supportive environment, Phoenix Charter High School empowers school-resistant students to become productive citizens in an ever-changing society. The success of the Center is determined by the success of individual students who develop positive attitudes and improved social behaviors and who can enter the workforce or postsecondary education with confidence.

Description

Phoenix Charter High School serves students in grades 9 – 12 who are considered divergent learners. These school-resistant, non-traditional students have experienced little success in the traditional school environment. The divergent learner responds to supportive teachers in a small, nurturing environment. The Center's teachers are employed for their proven record of relationship building and patience with this population of hard-to-serve students. The curriculum is designed around the state standards, and it also incorporates lessons from the environment of surrounding farmlands and the Santee Cooper Lake system, making learning as relevant as possible. Students participate in vocational training, job skills development, character education, and volunteerism. Students who have only known a history of failure in the traditional school system slowly begin to progress both academically and socially.

Origin

Frustrated by students who wanted to excel but lacked the necessary skills in reading and writing, a committee of teachers, coaches, and guidance counselors initiated the concept of the school. The Phoenix Center known as Phoenix Charter High School opened in August 1999.

Statistical Information: 2010 - 2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9 – 12	65	15	85%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	2 Full Time 8 Part Time	2 Full Time 6 Part Time	20		3

Contact Information

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Provost Academy South Carolina

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

Provost Academy South Carolina offers a world class online education to all high school students in South Carolina. By using the most current technologies, customized curriculum, and a distinctive focus on science and mathematics as a gateway to overall student success, Provost Academy individualizes the learning experience for its students and leaves them uniquely prepared for the 21st century work force or post-secondary education.

Description

Provost Academy South Carolina is a state-authorized public online school that is free of charge to residents of South Carolina, and offers high school students the choice of an engaging, adaptable and quality online learning experience. Students work toward their regular public high school diploma - recognized by colleges and employers - as they would in a traditional school, but in the convenient, safe environment of their own homes through computer-based educational programs.

In contrast to other online learning programs and traditional school settings, Provost Academy uses a proprietary modular curriculum design, so courses are adapted to fit a student's individual needs. Content can be rearranged and customized for individual learning paths based on testing and discussions with academic advisors and instructors.

Origin

Provost Academy South Carolina was created to address the need in South Carolina for a challenging and flexible education option for students who want or need something different from traditional high schools. Thousands of parents, students, and educators have voiced the need for increased public school options in South Carolina.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	9-12	1297	0	90%	N/A
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	17 Full Time 11 Part Time	17 Full Time 11 Part Time	5	10 Full Time 6 Part Time	16 Full Time 5 Part Time

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Richland One Middle College

Richland School District One

Mission

Richland One Middle College at Midlands Technical College improves student learning by providing all students with a rigorous and relevant academic program. Richland One Middle College provides all students with increased learning opportunities that ensure students will develop a strong academic foundation and the technical and personal skills necessary to make a successful transition from high school to their post-secondary pursuits.

Description

Housed on the campus of Midlands Technical College, the Richland One Middle College is a public charter school that offers 11th and 12th grade high school students academic and technical skills that make the transition from high school into college seamless. A small and powerful learning community, ROMC offers college-level classes, workplace experiences, extensive systems of extra help, and personalized graduation plans. Students also are required to perform 90 hours of community service every year. Richland One Middle College (ROMC) is an award winning school with proven leadership in creating a globally competitive workforce through academic rigor, real-world relevance, and close student/adult relationships.

Origin

The Richland One Middle College is a unique educational model for the South Carolina charter schools because Richland District One and Midlands Technical College have cooperatively committed their support to establish the school and to foster its growth.

Some of the compelling factors cited as significant reasons to establish Richland One Middle College include: 33% of students drop out of the school system before finishing high school; 65% of the jobs in the current and projected workforce require associate degree or higher advanced degrees and training; 18.3% of students met the SAT/ACT requirements for a Life Scholarship; and only one option currently exists to serve students outside the traditional high school setting.

The purpose of this school is to give students an early start on college and to re-connect other students to a successful high school experience that will prepare them for “life after high school”, whether it is postsecondary education and training, military enlistment, or direct entry to the workforce.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	11 - 12	138	0	98%	11
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	6	6	15	4	

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Richland Two Charter High School

Richland School District Two

Mission

The mission of Richland Two Charter High School, partnering with community businesses and other dedicated organizations, guarantees each student a quality education by providing individualized and authentic learning experiences within an innovative learning environment to prepare each individual for successful citizenship and lifelong learning within a global society.

Description

Richland Two Charter High School is a virtual public high school that offers extended hours to meet the needs of our students. We offer a classroom and computer lab environment for testing and tutoring from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. A full-time School To Work coordinator and a certified guidance counselor are on campus to support all students. We offer a “hybrid “ environment by supporting the online classes with math, English and special education support from experienced teachers daily on campus. Students come from the Richland School District II area.

Origin

Richland Two Charter High School was designed by a concerned group of parents, business leaders and educators to reach out to talented juniors and seniors who were dropping out of the traditional high schools. Each year the area high school lost students who were very capable of completing the academic requirement but could not attend a traditional school with a traditional schedule. R 2 Charter High opened August 2010 with students eager to complete their education in a smaller more nurturing environment from a dedicated group of experienced professionals.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	11-12	70-75	0	35	3
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	74 On line Instructors 2 Part Time	74 On line Instructors 2 Part Time	15	57 Full Time 2 Part Time	3 Full Time

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Riverview Charter School

Beaufort County School District

Mission

Riverview Charter School's mission is to create a small, diverse learning community that actively engages students in meaningful and innovative learning experiences. Emphasizing "learning by doing," family and community involvement, and engaged citizenship, Riverview is committed to nurturing the whole child and preparing each student for a global society.

Description

Using experiential principles as our guide, Riverview employs a variety of research-based educational approaches to help students accomplish the South Carolina Academic Standards through meaningful learning experiences. The strategies may include, but are not limited to: Service-Learning, 21st century, Interdisciplinary themes, Project-based learning, Environmental education, Reader's and writer's workshop, Learner-centered, developmentally appropriate classrooms, Integrated arts education, Learning profiles, Use of Garner's paradigm of multiple intelligences, Theme-based learning projects, Team teaching and collaboration, Inter-class mentorship, Inter-generational mentorship by family and community members, World language studies beginning in the early grades, Field trips and fieldwork, Authentic, evidence-based assessments, Academic, social, and emotional goal setting, Conferences with the teacher, parent, and student, and Self-assessment and reflection for teachers and students.

Through innovative instruction, RCS seeks to connect the theoretical perspective of experiential education and the art of teaching to create learning opportunities that nurture the whole child and prepare each student for a global society.

Origin

Riverview was founded by a group of parents and community members who sought to bring about a public school of choice to Beaufort County families.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-6th	303	350	96.2%	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	20 Full Time 2 Part Time	16 Full Time 1 Part Time	8 Full Time 10 Part Time	12 Full Time 1 Part Time	5 Full Time

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South Carolina Calvert Academy

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

The South Carolina Calvert Academy is a virtual public charter school dedicated to inspiring students in grades K-8 to realize their full potential in a 21st Century learning environment utilizing a proven curriculum, expert support, and instructional systems designed to encourage academic excellence. Leveraging the partnership between student, professional teacher, parents, peers, and other members of the academic community, the South Carolina Calvert Academy creates a learning environment that empowers students who participate in distance education programs to achieve success. The foundation of the South Carolina Calvert Academy program is the high-quality, research-based, and standards-aligned Calvert curriculum which has been producing results for over a century.

Description

There are many reasons for educating a child outside of a traditional classroom. A public virtual charter school provides a choice for parents who want to be more directly involved in their child's education. South Carolina Calvert Academy enables parents to share the gift of their time and talent with their child. The instructional model provides individualized learning plans that meet your child's specific needs. The South Carolina Calvert Academy learning environment consists of a partnership among students, our faculty, parents, peers, and both academic and technology support teams. The support of our team empowers a child to reach his or her full academic potential.

Origin

The foundation of the South Carolina Calvert Academy program is the world-renowned Calvert School curriculum. Calvert has been a trusted leader in distance learning for over a century – serving students and schools in all 50 states and over 60 countries. Calvert's curriculum is used by public, private, virtual, charter and international schools, as well as families, to successfully educate children.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-8	285	0	96.9%	N/A - Statewide
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	7	7	11	3	

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SC Connections Academy

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

To maximize academic achievement for students in grades K-12 throughout the state of South Carolina who need an alternative to the traditional classroom.

Description

Located in Columbia, this K-12 school provides a rigorous academic foundation, as well significant personalization through Personal Learning Plans. This is our (PPL Personalized Performance Learning) approach — a dynamic process through which we evaluate each student's strengths and needs. We then develop individual approaches that work for the student along with our curriculum.

We also offer a unique instructional program designed for gifted and talented students. Students in grades 3 through 8 may be enrolled in specially designated gifted courses in language arts and mathematics. High School students benefit from curriculum that provides an opportunity for students to participate in Honors and Advanced Placement courses.

SCCA employs highly-qualified (NCLB) and state certified teachers, “best in class” curriculum with textbooks (online and in print) and a full selection of clubs and electives to meet the needs of individual students.

Origin

SCCA is part of a national network of public charter schools that utilize the Connections Academy curriculum and educational model. The Connections Academy program is a **free public school** without walls for students in grades K-12. The program helps each student maximize his or her potential by combining the strong parental involvement of learning at home, expertise and accountability of public education and the flexibility of online classes. Students learn outside the traditional classroom - typically from home, but also from libraries, community centers and at field trips in every region in the state.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K – 12	2,580	0	97.1%	NA
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	57 Full-time 3 Part-time	57 Full-time 3 Part-time	5.93	27	5 Guidance Counselors (3 GCDF & 2 CDF)

Contact Information

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SC Virtual Charter School

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

SCVCS is a highly effective public virtual charter school that provides an individualized standards-based education for students in South Carolina. Our highly qualified staff works as partners with parents to provide an innovative and challenging education that focuses on traditional instructional models to promote mastery of the South Carolina Academic standards. Furthermore, SCVCS believes parents are integral in the acquisition of knowledge and works to increase student learning, promote character, and provide skill mastery through the use of technology and the k12 curriculum. Our school blends innovative new instructional technology with a traditional curriculum for students across South Carolina. There are many benefits to our unique learning model, including a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum with rich, engaging content, the flexibility of learning anytime and anywhere, the support of South Carolina certified teachers, and an individualized and self-paced learning program that adapts to a child's unique needs. This challenging and engaging curriculum was developed by renowned learning experts, teachers, and instructional designers and is aligned with the South Carolina Academic Standards.

Description

The SCVCS offers on line learning to any student who is a resident of South Carolina from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Students are required to actively participate a minimum of thirty instructional hours per week, with five hours of synchronous instruction, submit work samples and take state standardized tests. The *k-12* propriety on-line curriculum and educational services are utilized. Offline materials including textbooks, CDs, videos, and hands-on manipulative complement interactive online elements to address different learning styles and maximizes the learning for all students.

Origin

SCVCS was approved in 2008 by the newly established South Carolina Public Charter School district who is the official school authorizer. The school opened in fall 2008. Students represent every county in the entire state with large number at the high school level. The SCVCS has a governing board consisting of seven members.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-12	2817	0	96%	N/A
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	54 Full Time 4 Part Time	54 Full Time 4 Part Time	10	42	2 Guidance Counselors 4 Advisors

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Spartanburg Charter School

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

The mission of Spartanburg Charter School is to ensure equal access to a supportive school community that promotes academic excellence using a Reggio-inspired educational program.

Description

Spartanburg Charter School is a public charter school serving Kindergarten through 6th grade students in the 2010-2011 school year. We are sponsored by the South Carolina Public Charter School District. Our teaching methods are inquiry-based. In keeping with South Carolina laws and regulations, SCS teaches state standards for academic instruction. In addition, our curriculum helps each child develop his or her unique gifts and fulfill his or her promise physically, socially, and ethically as well. All SCS students receive character education twice weekly via the *Second Step Prevention Program*. Kindergarten through third grade students receive structured physical education daily via traditional P.E. and yoga classes. Fourth through sixth grade students receive structured P.E. twice weekly as well as additional time for recess and physical activity. All students receive weekly music and arts instruction as well. The SCS philosophy also highlights the importance of the quality of the relationship between child and teacher. Our ultimate goal is the development of citizens who fulfill their highest potential academically and behaviorally and who, as adults, contribute to society through their work, families, and philanthropy.

Origin

Spartanburg Charter School was opened in 2009 and is located in Spartanburg, SC.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	5K-6	296	40	96.3 %	0
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	17 Full Time 2 Part Time	16 Full Time 1 Part Time	7	12	3

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The Apple Charter School

Charleston County School District

Mission

The mission of The Apple Charter School is to educate students in a stable, consistent, single gender environment while preparing them for higher education and maximizing their potential for success in an ever changing world.

Description

The Apple Charter School provides the academic and employability skills that students need to excel. The school utilizes a highly integrative curriculum that emphasizes state and national standards. Students pursue answers to questions they have about themselves, curriculum content, and the world. The curriculum at Apple Charter is on the cutting edge of Career preparation by offering 21st Century employability skills training, advanced technology tools, and hands-on instruction in all Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The curriculum framework allows for students to make connections between classroom learning and the real world.

Origin

The Apple Charter School (TACS) opened as a school of choice serving students in grades Kindergarten through sixth grade to provide a supportive and academically challenging single-gender environment for boys/girls who are not yet achieving their full academic potential. We propose to exist to assist underperforming students in making high school their number one goal and objective by improving academic achievement and encouraging them to set higher goals for post-secondary education and careers. The major objective to exist as a charter school with single-gender classes is to provide underperforming students with instructional programs that address the unique academic, social and emotional needs of young boys and girls. The school will add a grade every year until reaching eighth grade in 2012.

Statistical Information: 2010-11

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K5 -6th	117		97%	NA
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	11 Full Time 1 Part Time	10 Full Time 1 Part Time	6	9 Full Time 1 Part Time	2

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York Preparatory Academy

South Carolina Public Charter School District

Mission

The mission of the York Preparatory Academy (YPA) is for the faculty, staff, students, parents, and community to provide an engaged learning environment that leads to the success of each individual student, while also challenging these students to become life-long learners, independent thinkers, respectful individuals, and responsible citizens thus preparing them for a 21st century global economy.

Description

YPA establishes a school culture that fosters academic pride, positive peer support, and a sense of personal responsibility for the school among students, parents, teachers, staff, and other community members. Our educational program is designed to address individual needs of each student with diverse learning styles within a small school environment that will share core values in Kindergarten through grade 12. Our educational program is focused on maximizing student achievement. Strategies will include: use of inquiry-based teaching approaches, small school size, standard school dress, smaller class size, extended time for teacher planning and professional development, Response-to-Intervention (RTI), daily character education, weekly physical education through grade 8, adequate time for recess, parental involvement in the learning process, and integration into the curriculum of multiage approaches toward learning. YPA will actively provide an ongoing assessment and evaluation of its goals as listed above via a Balanced Scorecard benchmarking process.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	K-8	627	75	96%	NA
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	38	37	4.8	12	5

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Youth Academy Charter School

Williamsburg County School District

Mission

The mission of The Youth Academy Charter School, a non-profit public Charter School of Williamsburg County School District, is to provide a quality educational experience in a structured, supportive environment through the implementation and evaluation of specific students and program performance measures in the areas of academic preparedness, life and career skill competencies, vocational readiness, and behavior management. Students are accepted from the surrounding communities and the surrounding Williamsburg County School District area. The school environment and philosophy places a unique holistic emphasis on working with the entire family to improve the overall living environment of each student.

Description

The Youth Academy Charter School is designed for non-diploma and diploma track K5 through twelfth graders who are emotionally handicapped, learning disabled, behaviorally challenged or home-based students. Instruction for grades K5 - eighth is derived from Anderson Five Curriculum in compliance with SC state standards. The curriculum for grades 9th - 12th is offered through APEX (on-line curriculum), and supplemented by literacy remediation and GED preparation. Vocational training includes classroom instruction, hands-on experience, and career training development.

Origin

The Youth Academy has delivered treatment services in a residential group setting since 1988. The Youth Academy opened as a charter school in October 1999.

Statistical Information: 2010-2011

STUDENTS	Grades Served	Enrollment	Students on Waiting List	Average Daily Attendance	Students out of District
	5K-12	30	13	97%	2
TEACHERS	Number of Teachers	Certified Teachers	Average Years Experience	Advanced Degrees	Instructional Staff (other)
	2 Full Time 1 Part Time	1 Full Time 1 Part Time	30	1 Full Time 1 Part Time	2 Teacher Assistants

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